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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report was prepared in order to support the process of amending the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins, Wyoming Field Office. It is intended that the RMP encompass the area described herein as the Resource Management Plan Planning Area (RMPPA).

The Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report ("the report") provides an intermediate level of detail for mineral assessments as prescribed in BLM Manual 3031. Information contained in this report is to be incorporated into the Management Situational Analysis as part of the RMP amendment process and will be similarly incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in conjunction with the RMP amendments.

The report provides a general geologic description of the RMPPA to include physiography, stratigraphy, structural geology, and historical geology. In addition, the report includes a description of mineral resources that are present, and a discussion of the development potential over the 20-year planning period for the various mineral resources that are identified as being present in the RMPPA.

In summary, the primary mineral occurrence and development potential within the RMPPA is associated with oil and natural gas, coal, uranium, aggregates, and decorative stone. The RMPPA is a proven hydrocarbon producing area for over 80 years, and estimates of undiscovered resources indicate that the area will provide abundant supplies of hydrocarbons (especially natural gas) through the end of the 20-year planning period and beyond. While CBM is still an unproven resource, the RMPPA currently has several proposed CBM development projects and others in initial development stage. It is anticipated that hydrocarbon development projects will drive the exploitation of aggregate resources (to supply infrastructure development needs). Because of abundant supplies of coal in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, coal development within the RMPPA may occur only to a limited degree. Although there was past mining of uranium and mineable grades of uranium remain in several areas, world market prices of the commodity will probably preclude development in the foreseeable future. Iron, titanium, vanadium, and copper are present as demonstrated resources, but development of those materials is also subject to world market conditions and not likely to occur in the near future. Diamonds have been found in the RMPPA, but no commercially developable deposits have been discovered to date.

A number of other minerals are present within the RMPPA; however, noted occurrences are typically sub-economic or development potential is "low", based on varying demand parameters (generally dependent on the mineral being considered).

BLM Manual 3031 (Energy and Mineral Assessment) specifies that minerals be classified according to mineral potential (utilized to rank the potential for presence or occurrence, as opposed to the potential for development or extraction). This classification system rates potential for the occurrence of mineral resources in categories of high (H), moderate (M), low (L), and no potential (O). The potential classification is followed by a rating of the level of certainty of the data ranging from A to D indicating increasing degrees of confidence in the evidence regarding the presence of a particular mineral occurrence. An A rating indicates insufficient data while a D rating indicates a high degree of certainty regarding the data.

The mineral resources that were reviewed in this report have been classified accordingly:

Mineral	Classification	Mineral	Classification
<u>Leasable Minerals</u>		<u>Locatable Minerals</u>	
Oil	H/D	Uranium	H/D
Natural Gas	H/D	Iron	H/D
Coalbed Methane	H/C	Titanium	H/D
Coal	H/D	Gold	H/C
Oil Shale	M/C	Copper	H/C
Phosphate	L/C	Diamonds	H/C
Sodium	M/C	Rare Earths	H/C
Geothermal	L/C	Bentonite	L/C
		Zeolites	M/C
<u>Saleable Minerals</u>			
Aggregates	H/D		
Baked Shale	H/D		
Silica Sand	H/D		
Dimension Stone	H/D		
Vermiculite	H/C		
Pumice and Scoria	H/C		
Common Clay	H/C		
Gypsum	H/D		
Decorative Stone	H/D		
Epsomite	H/D		
Aluminum	M/C		
Jade	M/B		
Petrified Wood	M/B		